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Amendments to the Specification:

On page 5, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 12 with the following paragraphs. Deleted text is indicated by strike-out and added text is indicated by underline.

--~~FIG.~~ Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating an embodiment of a computer system in accordance with the present invention.

Figures 2A and 2B are block diagrams illustrating the structure of a configuration setting signal according to an embodiment of the invention.--

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 9, line 14 and ending on page 11, line 17 with the following paragraphs. Deleted text is indicated by strike-out and added text is indicated by underline.

--In one embodiment, POST 595 contains one or more instructions to encode the size and location of one or more active configuration signals 571 in the memory which stores active configuration signals 571. Referring to Figure 2A, there is shown an exemplary configuration setting signal 571a. In one embodiment, encoding may be accomplished using an HTML NAME field 610. POST may further contain one or more instructions to encode one or more active configuration signals 571 using an HTML VALUE field 612. These fields may, in one embodiment, be included as fields of an HTML INPUT tag 512a, in a manner described below.

Referring to Figure 2B, in ~~in~~ one embodiment, the syntax to describe the size and location in memory of an active configuration signal is:

NAME = <prefix><ofst>_<len> (611)

Where:

<prefix> is an alphabetic character that describes the checksumming to be applied to the active configuration signal. Checksumming is further described below.

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<ofst> is the decimal offset of the first bit in the active configuration signal in memory.

<len> is the number of bits in the active configuration signal.

The <ofst>_<len> syntax may be repeated to describe signals which are noncontiguous in memory. The first <ofst>_<len> pair describes the least significant <len> bits of the signal, and the last pair describes the most significant bits. Of course, other techniques for describing the location of the signal are possible as well. For example, a location of the signal in memory may be defined using various well-known techniques, such as using a base address plus an offset value (613).

For example, the address in memory of the active configuration signal for the serial port address at a memory offset of 256 bits with a length of 16 bits may be encoded as:

NAME =A256_16 (615)

This would signify checksumming type A for a signal of 16 bits in length starting at offset 256 decimal.

The value of the active configuration signal may be encoded as a VALUE field 612, with the following syntax:

VALUE = <value> (617)

Where:

<value> is the decimal value of the signal.

For example, the value of an active configuration signal 571a for a serial port address of 0x03F8 (decimal 1016) may be encoded as:

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VALUE = 1016 (619)

As previously described, the NAME 610 and VALUE 612 fields may be included as fields of an HTML INPUT tag 512a. For example:

<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME=A256_16 VALUE=1016> Default COM 1 Address--